UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Assault at Royce and Young Research Library

From an email this morning:

The UCLA Police Department received a report of an aggravated assault, that occurred at Royce Hall on 05-06-2026 06:40 PM. Victim was seated on a bench outside of Royce Hall when an unknown suspect struck the victim with a closed fist, causing injuries that required medical attention. A second assault involving the same suspect was reported outside of Young Research Library, where the victim sustained minor injuries. UCLA PD has identified the suspect. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, approximately 40 years old, about 5'8" tall, and bald. He was wearing a black blazer jacket, black pants, and black shoes, and was carrying a green bag.

UCLA PD is investigating this crime. If you have information that might assist in the investigation, please contact the UCLA Police Department at 310-825-1491.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 12:26 PM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Legal Apology

From MSN: *A free speech organization accused UCLA School of Law of "double standards" [last] Wednesday after an assistant dean told Federalist Society students that they could be punished for publicly identifying protesters who disrupted their event earlier this month. [Last] Thursday, a UCLA Law spokesperson told The College Fix that the university apologized to the students.*

"UCLA does not discipline students for speech that is protected under the First Amendment," the unnamed spokesperson said in an emailed statement. "The initial communication was not intended to suggest otherwise, and we have apologized for any lack of clarity. UCLA School of Law also encourages students to engage one another with respect and care."

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- FAQs for Senate Faculty about Possible Strike by UAW; Winter 2026
- Fight for the Future of Higher Education: Academic Freedom from the Classroom to the Clinic
- Our Concerns Over Revisions to APMs 15 and 16
- Fight for the Future of Higher Ed Town Hall
- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 53. AI and the Public Good - 5/2/2026
- Liner Note 52. Fighting for an Interdiscipline: The Humanities' Future - 4/23/2026
- Liner Note 51. Academic Freedom of the Third Kind, in a Very Bad Time - 4/7/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

The situation has to do with a group of protesters who were caught on video earlier this month hurling insults and making disruptive noises during a Federalist Society event with U.S. Department of Homeland Security General Counsel James Percival. In an email... Bayrex Martí, assistant dean for student affairs, told leaders of the UCLA Federalist Society chapter that they could be punished if they name the protesters in the video, according to FIRE.

"First of all, identifying the names of people who attend a public event is 100% protected speech. You don't have a right to anonymity in public," FIRE Executive Vice President Nico Perrino wrote Wednesday on X. "Second, enough with these double standards. Threatening only one side with punishment for engaging in the same (protected) expression as the other side is viewpoint discrimination," Perrino wrote...

Full story at https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/free-speech-group-slams-ucla-for-double-standards-after-hecklers-disrupt-event/ar-AA227Ab5.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 335

From The Dartmouth: *At the end of April 2025, four federal grants funding Dartmouth research in the anthropology and health-related fields were canceled by the National Institutes of Health. While the College appealed all four cancellation decisions, only one grant has been reinstated. The College "continues to monitor the status" of the three remaining cancelled grants, according to an email statement from College spokesperson Morgan Kelly.*

Two of the terminated grants were Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award F31 Individual Predoctoral Fellowships, which fund students from underrepresented groups in health-related studies. A third was a $2 million grant from the Initiative for Maximising Student Development program, which provides stipend support, mentoring and other community programming for Ph.D. students engaged in behavioral, biomedical and clinical research. The fourth was a $141,000 grant from Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences that funds mentorship and training to reduce the underrepresentation of minority scholars in biological anthropology.

The other cancelled grants are "receiving or seeking," support from "other funds," Kelly wrote...

Full story at https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2026/04/ehrlich-a-year-after-the-cancellation-of-federal-grants-at-dartmouth-one-has-been-reinstated.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Dartmouth, diversity, politics

Insecure - Part 2

Topics

politics (2485) UC (2150) UC Regents (1913) health care (1452) State Budget (1282) governor (1134) diversity (1026) UC budget crisis (977) UC-Berkeley (927) pension (664) pensions (594) admissions (563) athletics (555) tuition (536) CSU (425) transportation (403) UC-Davis (379) online education (340) UCOP (317) uc retirement (314) traffic (307) ucrp (301) audio (291) UC enrollment (285) new hotel-conference center (282) UC-San Diego (269) enrollment (263) community colleges (252) LAO (236) UC-Irvine (186) fund raising (174) UC-Santa Barbara (163) UC-San Francisco (161) UC-Santa Cruz (159) controller (152) faculty center (144) UC-Riverside (143) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (122) UC-Merced (118) Master Plan (112) faculty pay (109) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (61) parking (61) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) copyright (36) UC Berkeley (35) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (22) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (15) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UCpolitics (4) UC Irvine (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2026 (464)

▼ May (24)

Assault at Royce and Young Research Library

Legal Apology

Straws in the Wind - Part 335

Insecure - Part 2

Investigation

Security Planning for 2028 Olympics

Straws in the Wind - Part 334

Insecure

Just a thought

Straws in the Wind - Part 333

How Related?

Health Watch

Dickson Awards

Straws in the Wind - Part 332

Second thoughts at the legislature

Straws in the Wind - Part 331

Yesterday, we noted in the Bruin an article about UCLA sororities hiring private security guards to prevent harassment that was apparently occurring in local streets.

As you can see in the accompanying image, the California Post (a derivative of the New York Post) was a bid more lurid in describing the situation.*

CALIFORNIA POST
LOG IN
Edition CA NY
PAGE SIX | SPORTS | CALIFORNIA NEWS | OPINIC
ALPHA PSI-CHO
UCLA sorority girls living in terror as deranged stalker forces them to take drastic action

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*https://nypost.com/2026/05/05/us-news/private-security-guards-hired-to-patrol-uclas-sorority-row/.

===

UCLA's sorority row on edge as maniac known as 'The Screamer' terrorizes sisters
By Nina Joudeh May 5, 2026 | 12:11pm
They describe men yelling vulgarities, making sexual remarks and approaching them on sidewalks near the houses, including one man they dubbed "the screamer."

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Investigation

From the LA Times: *UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine intentionally used race for the last three years to discriminate against applicants during admissions — in particular white and Asian American candidates — according to U.S. Department of Justice allegations released Wednesday. In a seven-page letter, the agency's Civil Rights Division wrote that the medical school "continues to intentionally discriminate against applicants based on their race after the Supreme Court's decision in Harvard by granting and denying admission on the basis of race." That 2023 decision — Students for Fair Admissions vs. Harvard — barred race-conscious admissions at colleges and universities but allowed schools to consider how race affected students if they wrote about their experiences in essays.*

A UCLA medical school spokesperson said that admissions are "based on merit" and that the school follows the law...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-05-06/ucla-medical-school-illegal-use-race-admissions-doj-investigation-findings.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, health care, politics, UCLA

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Security Planning for 2028 Olympics

Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus and Community Safety Steve Lurie spoke to a systemwide group of emeriti and retirees on April 29th concerning security planning for the 2028 Olympics.

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 156
Poof! You're a Pauper!
Straws in the Wind - Part 330
The Way We Live Now
Problems on the 405 this weekend
Klitzner
Straws in the Wind - Part 329
Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 155

► April (110)
► March (111)
► February (106)
► January (113)

► 2025 (1139)
► 2024 (832)
► 2023 (828)
► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)
► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Lurie

Some highlights are below. A link to a recording of his remarks is provided below the highlights.

As blog readers will surely know, Lurie was hired in the aftermath of the encampment. He was the LAPD individual in charge of the removal of the encampment with regard to the Olympics.

There will be about 17,000 athletes and related staff on campus. But there will not be competitive events. UCLA offers housing, training facilities, and medical facilities. Adding competitive events would have meant screening and protecting attendees, an excessive burden.

The Olympics are classified as National Security Special Events with the Secret Service ultimately in charge. Examples of other such events are the two political conventions and meeting of the UN General Assembly.

There will be police, military personnel (including military vehicles), and other personnel from various government agencies on campus.

Some areas of the campus will be completely off limits. Others will feature TSA-type screening. A list will be drawn up of UCLA employees who must be on campus. Others will work remotely. Those who must be on campus may be parking at remote lots and will use shuttle buses to come to campus.
Parking at UCLA will be reduced as spaces will be reserved for Olympic use. Traffic in the Westwood area is likely to be gridlocked. Cars entering the campus may be screened.

The medical enterprise will continue untouched - although there will be traffic effects.

Some lanes of local freeways may be reserved for Olympic use.

The Olympic period will run from late May to mid September. Academic calendars will be adjusted so there is no overlap.

There are concerns about cybersecurity which didn't exist when UCLA hosted the Olympic athletes and staff in 1984. (Or when the Olympics took place in LA in 1932!)

Starting in 2027, there will be communications to the UCLA community about what will be happening through town halls and other means.

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Note that there are concerns that will inevitably arise. If traffic around Westwood is gridlocked, how will ambulances get to the hospital? How will patients, some of whom are handicapped, get to medical appointments? Not all academic programs are on the standard calendar. For example, the law school normally operates on a semester system that begins in August. What happens to summer courses? What happens to public transit buses that normally come on campus?

===

You can hear AVC Lurie's remarks at the link below:

https://ia601506.us.archive.org/0/items/newsom-03-04-2026/UCLA%20VC%20Lurie%20on%20planning%20for%202028%20Olympics%204-29-2026.mp4.

Straws in the Wind - Part 334

From the Yale Daily News: *Yale's mission statement is no longer about "improving the world," educating "aspiring leaders worldwide" or "the free exchange of ideas in an ethical, interdependent, and diverse community." The statement now reads: "Yale's core mission is to create, disseminate, and preserve knowledge through research and teaching." Yale President Maurie McInnis indicated but did not explicitly announce the change in an email to the University on Thursday afternoon. It came after Yale's Committee on Trust in Higher Education recommended in a report this month that the University narrow its mission statement.*

The faculty committee's proposed mission statement, drawn from the Faculty Handbook, matches nearly verbatim the new mission statement on Yale's website. McInnis wrote in an email to the News that the mission statement had been changed on Thursday...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/yale-following-report-narrows-its-mission-statement-to-focus-on-knowledge.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Yale

Insecure

From the Daily Bruin: ...*The Panhellenic Council hired On Call Security Services – which provides security for residential, commercial and industrial properties – to patrol Hilgard starting April 6. The security guard patrols daily from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. across sorority row, a Panhellenic Council spokesperson said in a texted statement. All 10 sorority houses on Hilgard can continue hiring private security if the program helps reduce harassment, the spokesperson added in a written statement.*

"I don't think that it should come at an additional cost," [President Ella] Hernand said. "But I also know there are limitations to what UCPD can do. It's a very thin line."

UCPD is aware of the reports of harassment and has increased evening patrols on Hilgard, although previous data indicated that less violent crime occurred in that area than in other parts of Westwood, said Jeffrey Chobanian, the captain of UCPD's operations bureau, in an emailed statement...

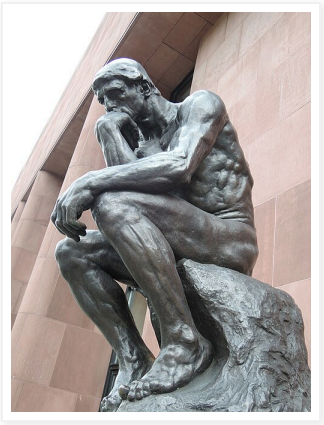
Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/05/04/private-security-hired-by-sororities-after-reports-of-harassment-on-hilgard.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Just a thought



Yours truly noticed this article in the Daily Bruin:

The UCLA Anderson School of Management will launch a new sports leadership and management minor for undergraduate students this fall.

Laurie Summers, the special advisor of academic initiatives at the School of Management, said the minor... reflects a growing demand for specialized management coursework at UCLA. The university does not offer a traditional undergraduate business major...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/04/29/school-of-management-to-launch-new-sports-leadership-minor-for-undergraduates.

He wonders if students in the new sports management minor will study what it might cost to sign a (very) long-term lease for use of a large stadium in, say, Pasadena, and then try to break the lease. Just a thought, an innocent question...

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 333

From the Daily Princetonian: *Winter session is dead. Some student employees and program staff have been laid off. The current meal swap system will be decommissioned starting next fall. Amid an increasingly uncertain fiscal and political environment, University President Christopher Eisgruber '83 announced in his annual "State of the University" letter that budgetary and operational changes would unfold over several years, following departmental budget cuts and a hiring freeze implemented last year. He added that these budgetary constraints will at times require "targeted, and in some cases, deeper, reductions over a multiyear period."*

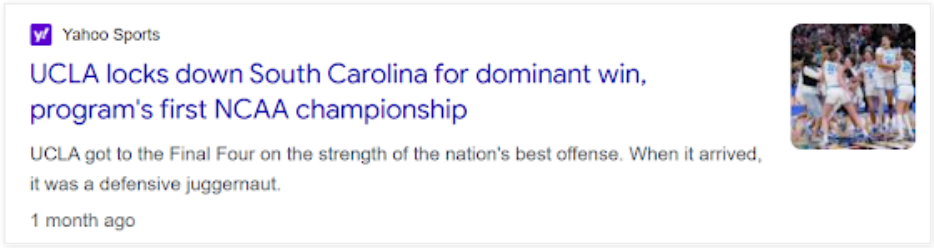
The University recently lowered its long-term endowment return expectations from 10.2 percent to 8 percent annually, and an endowment value of $11.3 billion lower than past forecasts was predicted for the next decade. At the same time, the Trump administration has passed higher taxes on large college endowments, frozen research funding, and targeted diversity programs and other key pillars of higher education. Against this backdrop, University units have cut programming, employee benefits, and library hours. These are just a few of the changes made through several rounds of budget cuts beginning in Spring 2025...

Full story at https://projects.dailyprincetonian.com/Princeton-budget-cuts-tracker/.

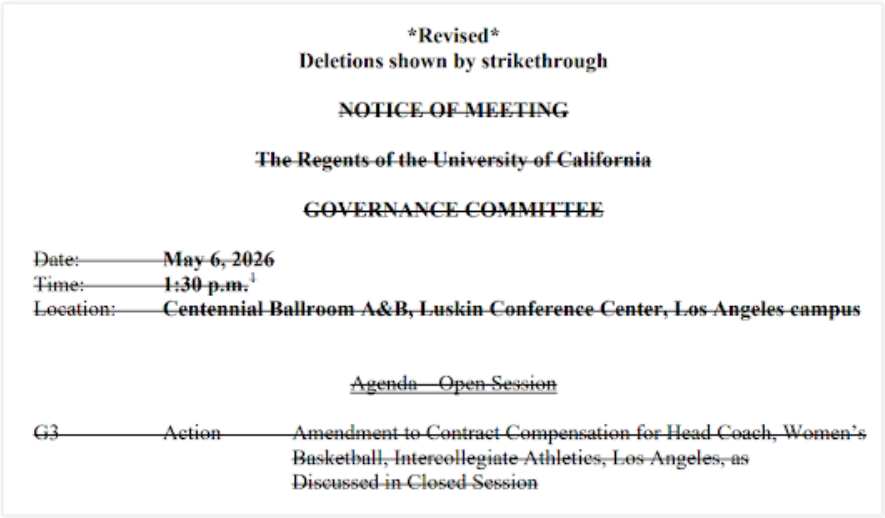
Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Princeton U

How Related?


Yahoo Sports
UCLA locks down South Carolina for dominant win, program's first NCAA championship
UCLA got to the Final Four on the strength of the nation's best offense. When it arrived, it was a defensive juggernaut.
1 month ago

UCLA women's basketball made headlines recently. It's unclear how that story is related to the *removal* of a planned Regents agenda item from the upcoming menu:



Revised
Deletions shown by strikethrough

~~**NOTICE OF MEETING**~~

~~**The Regents of the University of California**~~

~~**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**~~

~~Date: May 6, 2026~~
~~Time: 1:30 p.m.~~[1]
~~Location: Centennial Ballroom A&B, Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles campus~~

~~Agenda – Open Session~~

~~G3 Action Amendment to Contract Compensation for Head Coach, Women's Basketball, Intercollegiate Athletics, Los Angeles, as Discussed in Closed Session~~

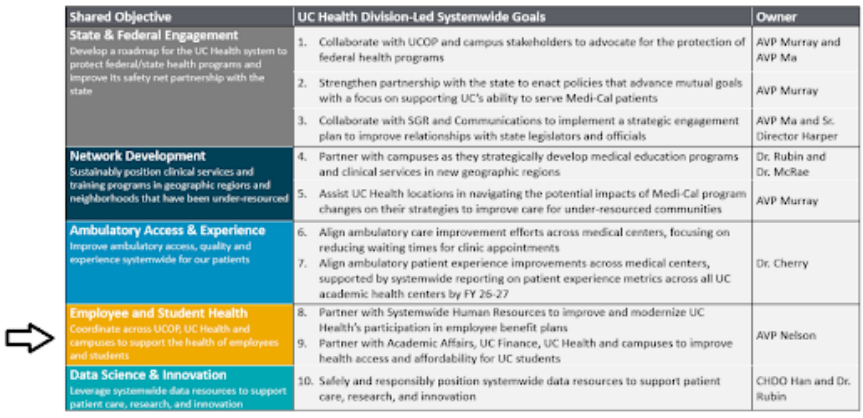
Source: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may26/gov5.6.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Monday, May 4, 2026

Health Watch

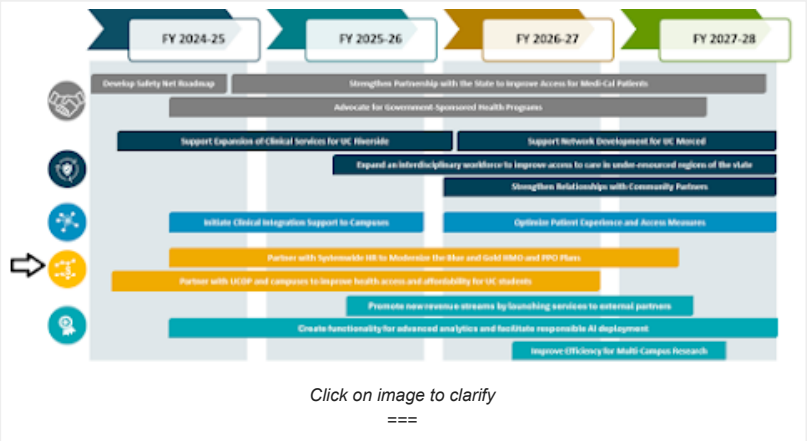


Shared Objective	UC Health Division-Led Systemwide Goals	Owner
State & Federal Engagement Develop a roadmap for the UC Health system to protect federal/state health programs and improve its safety net partnership with the state	1. Collaborate with UCOP and campus stakeholders to advocate for the protection of federal health programs	AVP Murray and AVP Ma
	2. Strengthen partnership with the state to enact policies that advance mutual goals with a focus on supporting UC's ability to serve Medi-Cal patients	AVP Murray
	3. Collaborate with SGR and Communications to implement a strategic engagement plan to improve relationships with state legislators and officials	AVP Ma and Sr. Director Harper
Network Development Sustainably position clinical services and training programs in geographic regions and neighborhoods that have been under-resourced	4. Partner with campuses as they strategically develop medical education programs and clinical services in new geographic regions	Dr. Rubin and Dr. McRae
	5. Assist UC Health locations in navigating the potential impacts of Medi-Cal program changes on their strategies to improve care for under-resourced communities	AVP Murray
Ambulatory Access & Experience Improve ambulatory access, quality and experience systemwide for our patients	6. Align ambulatory care improvement efforts across medical centers, focusing on reducing waiting times for clinic appointments 7. Align ambulatory patient experience improvements across medical centers, supported by systemwide reporting on patient experience metrics across all UC academic health centers by FY 26-27	Dr. Cherry
Employee and Student Health Coordinate across UCOP, UC Health and campuses to support the health of employees and students	8. Partner with Systemwide Human Resources to improve and modernize UC Health's participation in employee benefit plans 9. Partner with Academic Affairs, UC Finance, UC Health and campuses to improve health access and affordability for UC students	AVP Nelson
Data Science & Innovation Leverage systemwide data resources to support patient care, research, and innovation	10. Safely and responsibly position systemwide data resources to support patient care, research, and innovation	CHDO Han and Dr. Rubin

Click on image to clarify

===

Tomorrow, the Regents lead off with the Health Services Committee. Various objectives are summarized on the image above. Note that one set of goals involves employee and student health plans. Employee plans in particular, however, are provided by private insurance carriers such as Kaiser and Anthem Blue Cross. It seems clear that UC Health would like to capture more of that business for the various campus health enterprises.* As noted on the image below, UC Health is in the midst of "planning" with HR concerning that objective.


FY 2024-25
FY 2025-26
FY 2026-27
FY 2027-28
Develop Safety Net Roadmap
Strengthen Partnership with the State to Improve Access for Medi-Cal Patients
Advocate for Government Sponsored Health Programs
Support Expansion of Clinical Services for UC Riverside
Support Network Development for UC Merced
Expand an interdisciplinary workforce to improve access to care in under-resourced regions of the state
Strengthen Relationships with Community Partners
Initiate Clinical Integration Support to Campuses
Optimize Patient Experience and Access Measures
Partner with Systemwide HR to Modernize the Blue and Gold HMO and PPO Plans
Partner with UCOP and campuses to improve health access and affordability for UC students
Promote new revenue streams by launching services to external partners
Create functionality for advanced analytics and facilitate responsible AI deployment
Improve Efficiency for Multi-Campus Research

Click on image to clarify

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Source of images: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may26/h5.pdf.

===

*The UC Health strategic plan clearly states a goal of:

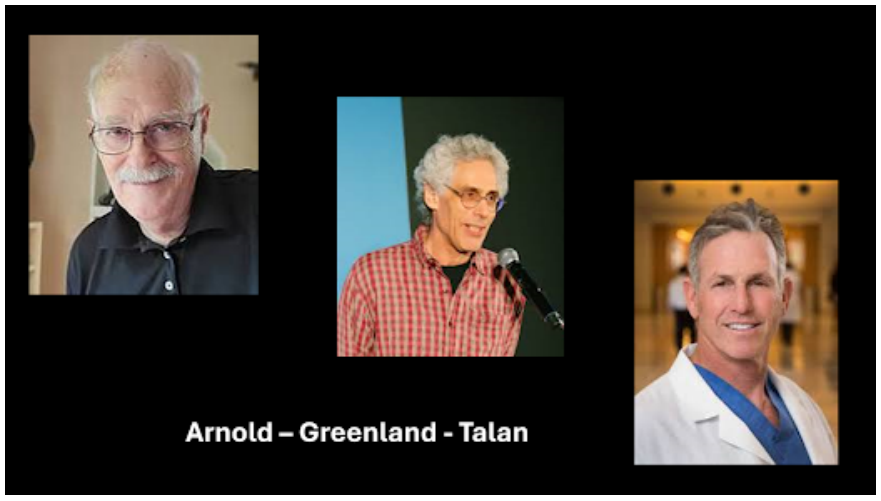
More employees as a percentage of total are attracted to the Blue & Gold health benefit plan.

See https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may26/h5attach1.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:23 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UC Regents

Dickson Awards



From a recent email:

The Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award is funded from a gift endowment established by the late Edward A. Dickson, Regent of the University of California, to honor outstanding research, scholarly work, teaching, and service performed by an Emeritus or Emerita Professor since retirement.

Three UCLA emeriti professors have been selected to receive the 2025 – 2026 Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award, which includes a prize of $5,000: Distinguished Research Professor Arthur P. Arnold, Professor Emeritus Sander Greenland, and Professor Emeritus David A. Talan.

Arthur P. Arnold, Distinguished Research Professor of Integrative Biology and Physiology retired in 2018. Professor Emeritus Arnold has continued to demonstrate extraordinary intellectual vitality and global leadership. As a neuroscientist and behavioral biologist, he transformed the scientific understanding of sexual differentiation by establishing that sex chromosomes directly shape brain development and disease vulnerability. During his emeritus years, he has published more than 40 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals including Science Translational Medicine, Nature Immunology, and Journal of Neuroscience. His work has redefined how researchers conceptualize sex differences in physiology and medicine and continues to influence biomedical research worldwide. Professor Emeritus Arnold has also

secured competitive NIH funding during retirement, including multiple R01 awards, and has led the development of innovative Four Core Genotype rat models that will advance sex-differences research across disciplines. His service to the scientific community remains exemplary. He has served on the NIH Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health, contributed to a National Academies report on chronic conditions in women, and continues to shape international standards for rigor in sex-based biomedical research.

Sander Greenland, Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology and Statistics, retired in 2012. Since retirement, Professor Greenland has remained one of the most influential scholars in epidemiology worldwide. From 2019 through 2025, he has been consecutively named a Clarivate/Web of Science Highly Cited Researcher, placing him among the top 1% of researchers globally. During his emeritus years alone, he has authored or co-authored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications, many in leading journals including the American Journal of Epidemiology, and International Journal of Epidemiology. His work on causal inference, bias analysis, Bayesian methods, and meta-analysis continues to shape modern epidemiologic methodology and inform public health policy around the world; reflecting a career that bridges deep theory and practical application. He continues to mentor junior investigators and faculty across institutions internationally, serving as senior or corresponding author on numerous collaborative publications that elevate the next generation of methodologists. His leadership and intellectual generosity have sustained UCLA's reputation as a global center for excellence in epidemiologic research and training.

David A. Talan, Professor Emeritus of Emergency Medicine retired in 2014. Dr. Talan continues to produce practice-changing research published in the highest-impact medical journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, and The Lancet. His NIH-funded trial has reshaped emergency and infectious disease care worldwide, most notably through landmark multicenter trials of modern management of skin abscesses. As co-Principal Investigator of the landmark PCORI-funded Comparison of Antibiotic Drugs and Appendectomy (CODA) trial, he helped redefine the management of uncomplicated appendicitis, advancing patient-centered, nonoperative care worldwide. His ongoing leadership of the CDC-funded EMERGEncy ID NET and current NIH-supported investigations into antimicrobial resistance and vaccine development continue to influence global health policy and practice. He has created advanced infectious diseases educational programs within the department and established an Emerging Infections Fellowship to train the next generation of physician-scientists. His mentorship spans emergency medicine, infectious diseases, and surgery, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across UCLA.

Please join me in wishing them a well-deserved congratulations for outstanding contributions to their respective fields since retirement and for serving as powerful examples of intellectual and professional achievement.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Levine

Chair, Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award Selection Committee

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Personnel

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, uc retirement, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 332

From the Brown Daily Herald: *Three students who were injured on campus during the Dec. 13 shooting are suing the University in three separate lawsuits over security failures, citing inadequate security measures and a failure to act on repeated warnings about the shooter's suspicious behavior. "Brown's conduct, as alleged herein, was so willful, reckless and wicked as to amount to criminality, which, for the good of society and as a warning to Brown, ought to be punished by an award of punitive damages over and above that provided in an award of compensatory damages," one of the complaints reads.*

All three lawsuits were filed last Thursday in Rhode Island Superior Court, and the students are seeking more than $10,000 in damages each for medical expenses as well as physical and mental distress. The students were not identified in the documents, and were referred to as "J. Doe No. 1, 2 and 3." ...

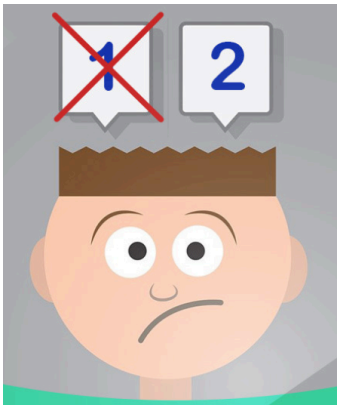
Full story at https://www.browndailyherald.com/article/2026/04/three-students-injured-in-dec-13-shooting-sue-brown-over-alleged-security-failures.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Second thoughts at the legislature



The governor will soon be presenting his May Revise budget proposal. From the perspective of the legislature, despite all the PR that UC gives its research agenda, the typical legislator hears from parents whose kids didn't get into the UC of their choice. The fact that what gives prestige to the campuses that are disappointing parents is research doesn't register.

Back in the Good Old Days, people are told - maybe by grandparents - it was easy to get into, say, UCLA. Now it is hard. It is also true, however, that the population of California has grown by a factor of around 2.5 since 1960, the date of the Master Plan. And more kids finish high school and want to go to college now.

It is also true that the state has a lot more on its plate than it did in the early 1960s. Example: The state didn't worry about funding Medi-Cal back then because there was no Medi-Cal. So, despite the Master Plan's promise of no tuition, i.e., full state funding, UC gets a mix of tuition and funding. It gets a lot more money from out-of-state and international students than it does from in-state enrollees.

To make room for more in-state students at the prestige campuses, the state required fewer out-of-state admissions and promised to reimburse UC for the loss or revenue. But that turns out to be expensive. So now the legislature is having second thoughts about the deal. From CalMatters:

In 2022, faced with mounting criticism from California parents and students who couldn't get into the state's three premier public universities, legislators and UC officials struck a deal. UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego would admit a combined 900 more in-state students a year, and the state would up their budgets to cover the loss of revenue from non-resident students, who pay three times what in-state students pay.

That deal has since cost taxpayers $276 million and allowed around 3,000 more students to enroll at the three universities. While the costs were expected, the number is far higher than the annual $31 million figure Gov. Gavin Newsom and state legislators routinely cite for funding the in-state student expansion, a CalMatters analysis shows. Now, with one year to go in the five-year plan, some are wondering whether the program's high costs should continue as-is, particularly as California faces several years of multibillion-dollar deficits...

Full story at https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/2026/04/uc-admission/. (Dan Hare was nice enough to forward this article to yours truly.)

The fact is that you can always say that the marginal cost of adding one more kid in the back of the lecture hall is essentially zero. But that doesn't mean that adding thousands more will cost zero. And from UC's perspective, even if it were zero, those seats in the lecture hall could go to out-of-state students who pay more than in-state students. Since there are many in-state kids

turned away, and many out-of-state kids turned away, the opportunity cost for UC of a seat is the difference between what the two kinds of students pay.

It has always been the case that you could "process" lots more undergraduate students cheaply. That's what CSU does. That's what the community colleges do. And that's why - as we have said on this blog umpteen times - the state needs a new Master Plan in which all the trade-offs are thrashed out rather *ad hoc* legislative directives.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, community colleges, CSU, governor, legislature, Master Plan, politics, UC enrollment, UC-Berkeley, UC-San Diego, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 331

From Florida's Voice: *Barry University School of Law has reversed its earlier denial and will allow students to form a chapter of Turning Point USA, complying with demands from Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier that the private Catholic institution had engaged in viewpoint discrimination. The law school notified students of the decision Wednesday, ending a months-long dispute that began when administrators rejected a student request for official recognition of the conservative group in November. School officials had cited Turning Point USA's emphasis on political advocacy and "ideological confrontation" as inconsistent with the university's educational philosophy of reflective dialogue, intellectual humility and respect for human dignity, rooted in its Catholic and Adrian Dominican heritage.*

Uthmeier sent a sharply worded letter to Dean Leticia M. Diaz on April 9, accusing the law school of "blatant viewpoint discrimination" that could violate its own student handbook guarantees of free expression and association, as well as Florida consumer protection laws. He noted that the school had approved other student organizations, including OUTLaw, a group focused on legal issues facing the LGBTQ+ community. Uthmeier welcomed the reversal in a statement Wednesday on X. "Great to see Barry Law School come around and provide its students with an opportunity to engage with and exchange diverse ideas," he said...

Full story at https://flvoicenews.com/exclusive-barry-law-agrees-to-recognize-turning-point-usa-chapter-following-ag-uthmeier-pressure/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, Barry U, politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 156

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study implemented a series of staffing cuts Wednesday, laying off employees and reducing positions as it grapples with mounting financial uncertainty. The Institute laid off four employees, shifted three staff members to part-time roles, and eliminated eight vacant positions, according to a Radcliffe employee familiar with the matter.*

In [an] email to staff — which was obtained by The Crimson — Radcliffe Institute Dean Tomiko Brown-Nagin described the decision as "painful," citing "a wide range of federal actions targeting Harvard, cost pressures, and market volatility." She said Harvard's central administration had directed units to pursue "structural cuts."

"We will operate with substantial financial uncertainty for the foreseeable future — years, not months — and we have been asked to respond accordingly," Brown-Nagin wrote...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/4/30/radcliffe-layoffs/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Poof! You're a Pauper!

The New York Times
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
Her Life Savings Mysteriously Disappeared After a Systems Glitch
Fidelity Investments notified a customer that her phone number and email address had been removed from her profile. When she logged in, her accounts and savings were nowhere to be found.

The link to the article shown in the image is below. It's a sad tale of a computer SNAFU that isn't fully explained but was eventually corrected. However, in between the point where the accounts disappeared and when they were resurrected, there was a lot of anxiety, to say the least.

Some UC employees and retirees have their tax-favored savings accounts at Fidelity. And Fidelity provides other services for UC related to retirement accounts. But the glitch seems like something that could occur in any large computer system.

The moral of the tale would seem to be that it would be a good idea to keep some kind of external record of your accounts so that when someone tells you that they can't find any trace of your accounts in the system, you have a screenshot or a paper copy to prove otherwise. In this case, the victim of the SNAFU was told that because there was no record that she ever had existed, there was nothing to be done.

You can find the story at:

https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/25/your-money/fidelity-investments-fraud-alert.html.

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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: uc retirement

Straws in the Wind - Part 330

From Fortune: *The assignment involves no laptop, no chatbot and no technology of any kind. In fact, there's no pen or paper, either. Instead, students in Chris Schaffer's biomedical engineering class at Cornell University are required to speak directly to an instructor in what he calls an "oral defense." It's a testing method as old as Socrates and making a comeback in the AI age. A growing number of college professors say they are turning to oral exams, and combining a variety of old-fashioned and cutting-edge techniques, to help address a crisis in higher education. "You won't be able to AI your way through an oral exam," says Schaffer, who introduced the oral defense last semester.*

Educators are no longer naively wondering if students will use generative AI to do their homework for them. A big question now is how to determine what students are actually learning. College instructors across the U.S. are noticing troubling new trends as generative artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated. Take-home essays and other written assignments are coming back perfect. But when students are asked to explain their work, they can't...

At the University of Pennsylvania, Emily Hammer, an associate professor of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, now pairs oral exams with written papers in her seminar classes... Hammer forbids AI use on all writing assignments but tells her class she knows she can't enforce that. However, if they haven't written their papers themselves, defending the material face-to-face will likely be "a very stressful situation."

Hammer's class is part of "a massive shift toward in-person assessments," both written and oral, at Penn, says Bruce Lenthall, executive director of the school's Center for Teaching and Learning. The Ivy League school is one of a small but growing number of universities that have started running faculty workshops on oral exams...

Full story at https://fortune.com/2026/04/23/the-gen-z-stare-meets-the-mysterious-perfect-homework-assignment-in-the-age-of-chatgpt-enter-the-oral-exam/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Cornell, U of Pennsylvania

The Way We Live Now

A message from Associate Vice Chancellor Steve Lurie

Dear Bruin Community,

The UC Regents will hold a two-day meeting at the Luskin Conference Center from Tuesday, May 5, through Wednesday, May 6, 2026. We are excited to welcome University leaders as they convene to do their important work. Traditionally, these meetings have been a focal point for individuals and groups who wish to express their concerns, goals, and vision for the University of California.

For those who wish to communicate with the Regents, public comment periods will be available to address the Board directly. For details on how to sign up, please click here: https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/public-comment.html.

There will also be designated areas for public expression activities near the Luskin Conference Center. Signs will be posted to delineate these zones. If you plan to engage in First Amendment activity during the Regents meeting, please take a moment to review our time, place, and manner policies and related laws at https://tpm.ucla.edu/.

To ensure a safe, successful meeting, the Office of Campus and Community Safety will partner with other UC campuses, the California Highway Patrol, and contracted security personnel to increase available resources during the two-day event. Our community members will see officers in police vehicles, on bicycles, and on foot, as well as security officers throughout the area.

We remain committed to implementing UCLA's tiered response to all events and will utilize uniformed police officers only when absolutely necessary.

Please join me in welcoming the Regents to UCLA, and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

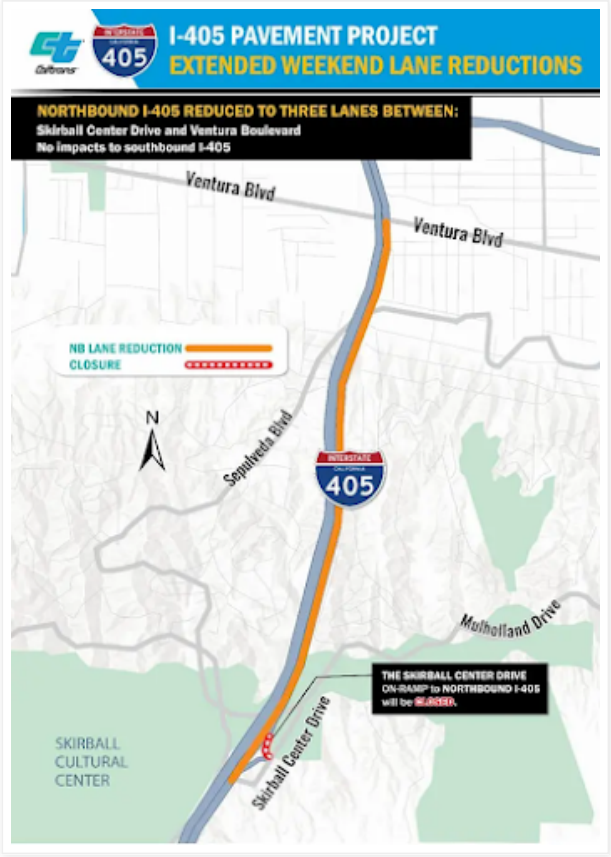
Steve Lurie

Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Campus & Community Safety

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Friday, May 1, 2026

Problems on the 405 this weekend



From Santa Monica Patch: *Traffic will be affected on the 405 Freeway and nearby roads this weekend when construction will shut down several lanes of the interstate near the Sepulveda Pass beginning Friday.The northbound freeway will be reduced to three lanes from 10 p.m. Friday, May 1 through 5 a.m. Monday, May 4. Additionally, one ramp will be closed.*

The planned closures are as follows:

Northbound 405 Freeway

- *The interstate will be reduced to three lanes between Skirball Center Drive and Ventura Boulevard.*
- *The Skirball Center Drive on-ramp to the northbound 405 will be closed.*

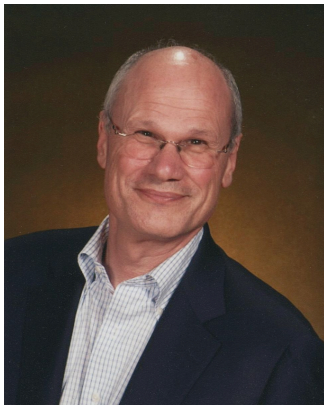
The southbound freeway will not be affected by the closure...

Full story https://patch.com/california/santamonica/s/k9gav/major-lane-closures-to-snarl-405-freeway-this-weekend-what-to-know.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: traffic, UCLA

Klitzner



From a recent email:

The Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award, established in 2015, recognizes UCLA emeriti for exemplary service by an emeritus/emerita professor to the academic enterprise after retirement. The award honors outstanding service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts, or committees.

UCLA Professor Emeritus Thomas S. Klitzner has been selected to receive the 2025 – 2026 Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award, which includes a prize of $1,000.

Thomas S. Klitzner, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics retired in 2016. Dr. Klitzner has sustained a vigorous

record of service to UCLA, the medical profession, and the broader community. At UCLA, he remains an active research collaborator focused on complex care for children, advancing national models for home and care coordination. In 2022 he endowed the Thomas Klitzner Medical Home Lectureship for Complex Care, bringing leading scholars to campus to strengthen education and practice. Beyond campus, Dr. Klitzner serves on the Strategic Planning Committee of the Venice Family Clinic and chairs the board of Seeds to Plate, a nonprofit providing garden-based education in Los Angeles public schools, fostering meaningful engagement between UCLA pediatric residents and local students. His continued participation in professional and advisory roles reflects decades of leadership in pediatric health system innovation.

Please join me in wishing Professor Emeritus Klitzner a well-deserved congratulations for outstanding service to UCLA since retirement and for serving as a powerful example of intellectual and professional achievement.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Levine

Chair, Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award Selection Committee

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Personnel

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, uc retirement, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 329

From California Post: *A growing revolt is unfolding at the the University of Southern California's prestigious Marshall School of Business, where faculty are warning of the program's downward slide. In a sharply worded letter to USC Dean Geoffrey Garrett, 52 tenured professors flagged falling enrollment and graduate program cuts as signs of deeper trouble at the school, according to L.A. Material. "There are clear signs of our downward trajectory in terms of academic reputation, commitment to excellence in research, and the demonstrated academic excellence of the students which graduate from our programs," the letter states.*

While faculty pushback isn't unusual on college campuses, current and former USC administrators described the warning as rare, high-level rebuke that could force leadership to take a hard look inward. The tensions have arisen amid a strained financial backdrop at the college. USC carried out layoffs last July to close an operating deficit that had swelled to $251 million...

Full story at https://nypost.com/2026/04/24/us-news/doomsday-letter-from-faculty-at-usc-business-school-warns-of-distrubing-trend/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: USC

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 155

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard faculty are weighing an amendment to a proposed cap on undergraduate A's that would substantially reduce the number of A's awarded in smaller courses, the latest revision to a policy faculty have debated for months. The current proposal would cap the number of A's in any course at 20 percent of enrolled students plus four. The amendment, drafted by Physics professor Matthew D. Schwartz, would replace the flat addition of four with 0.6 times the square root of the total number of students.*

Across all courses, the two formulas would produce roughly the same overall share of A's — 31 percent under the amendment, compared with 32.3 percent under the current proposal. (The current share of As awarded to undergraduates is substantially higher at 63 percent.) But the amendment's impact would be far more pronounced in smaller courses. In courses with 12 or fewer students, the maximum allowed share of A's would fall from 70.8 percent to 51.1 percent. In larger classes, Schwartz's formula would slightly increase the cap, raising the allowed share of A's by one to three percentage points in courses with more than 30 students...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/4/27/grade-cap-amendment/.

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From the Harvard Crimson: *Enrollment in Harvard's Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program has fallen to a more than 15-year low, as cuts to teaching positions and federal scrutiny of gender and sexuality-related programming raise questions about the program's long-term sustainability. 22 undergraduates are currently concentrating in WGS, including joint and double concentrators, according to data from current and past concentration handbooks. The figure is the lowest since 2010 and represents a more than 50 percent decline from the program's 2022-23 peak of 55 concentrators.*

Only two are sophomores — the most recent class to declare their concentrations...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/4/22/wgs-concentrators-drop/.